

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/053237

International filing date (day/month/year)
02.12.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
21.01.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
G06F3/06, H04L29/06

Applicant
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☒ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/053237

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/053237

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	5-8,14-18,20
	No: Claims	1-4,9-13,19,21
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-21
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-21
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

1. The following document is referred to in this communication:
D1 : EP 1 276 034 A

2. INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

- 2.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) a method for controlling access to logical units (see par. [0001]) that accept commands and are accessible by ports that send commands (see par. [0003]), comprising the steps:

grouping together as a named set (see Group ID) in a first location ports that require access to the same logical units (see [0050]);

associating in a further location a named set with selected logical units (see [0051], [0052];

and extracting at the further location identification information for the one or more ports by referencing the name of the named set (implied).

- 2.2 Even if it could be argued that the method defined in claim 1 is new, based on minor differences in the interpretation of the features as claimed in claim 1 and those disclosed in D1, the subject-matter of claim 1 would certainly not involve an inventive step, Article 33(3) PCT, as document D1 discloses the same object and the same type of solution as the present application, i.e. grouping the hosts according to the LU they access in order to simplify the management of access.
It is considered that the Group ID can be referenced to identify the corresponding ports with the use of the "WWN_S_ID_GID conversion table".

3. INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 10 AND 21

- 3.1 The subject-matter of the apparatus claim 10 and the computer program product claim 21 corresponds to that of method claim 1, and is therefore also not new, Article 33(2) PCT.

4. DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-9, 11-20

Dependent claims 2-9, 11-20 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT). The additional features are either already disclosed in D1 (Storage Area Network: see [0002]; SCSI Protocol: see [0019]; Fibre Channel Interface: see [0019], Logical Unit Numbers: see [0004]) or considered obvious (associations are dynamically changed, back up).

Re Item VII.

1. According to the requirements of Rule 11.13(I) reference signs not appearing in the description shall not appear in the drawings, and vice versa. This requirement is not met in view of most of the reference signs.
2. Independent claims are not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT.
3. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the document D1 is not mentioned in the description, nor is this document identified therein.

Re Item VIII.

1. The application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because claims 1, 10 and 21 are not clear.

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
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AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/053237

- 1.1 The term "subsequent location" implies a sequence in the locations. It is not clear how these mapping tables can be sequenced.
- 1.2 A "named set" is defined in lines 4 and 6 of claim 1, one set of ports and one set of LU. It is not clear which one of the is to be referred in the extracting step.